

VOCABULARY (Mountains)

Fill in the gaps with the words from the box. Two words are extra.

mound mature mountain range rounded tectonic rolling
mountain development plateau mountain systems elevation jagged
mountain belts summit young slopes flat

A mountain is a landform that reaches a high (1) _____. Elevation is the height of a point on Earth above or below sea level. For a hill or (2) _____ to be classified as a mountain, its (3) _____, or highest point, must be more than a few hundred meters above the land around it. Most mountains do not stand alone. A group of mountains with the same general shape and structure is called a (4) _____. For example, Mount St. Helens in Washington State is part of the Cascade mountain range. Groups of mountain ranges form into what are called (5) _____, which, in turn, can be broken into (6) _____.

Over millions of years, mountains change and take on different forms. Mountains change as the crust is either built up or worn away by various processes. This process is called (7) _____. Some mountains have steep (8) _____. The peaks are sharp and (9) _____. The valleys are narrow. These mountains are often called (10) “_____” because they are formed from new crust. As time passes, a mountain’s peak is worn down by weather conditions. These make the peak more (11) _____. The slopes become less steep. Mountains like these are called (12) “_____” mountains. Some mountains continue to be worn away for a very long time. No buildup occurs. These “old” mountains are almost (13) _____ and have no jagged peaks. They have many (14) _____ hills, and the valleys between these mountains are wide.